

thirteen, a full two years before the standard admission age. Bill Hall, director of the program, recognized Chris's enthusiasm and ability and thus waived the minimum age requirement for the young protege. Chris did not disappoint, excelling in all aspect of the training, from pulling lines to dressing hydrants, and perhaps most importantly, first aid. Not surprisingly, Chris is considered one of the most adept alumni of the program, and wishes to continue his training after high school by pursuing a career in firefighting. Given his previous accomplishments, Chris Cahoon will have shining career in public service ahead of him.

Not only does Chris's heroic action give us reason to recognize a commendable young man, it also provides proof that America's youth are still learning important values such as self-improvement, service to others, and selflessness. Chris had a childhood dream—a noble dream—and he was encouraged to pursue this path by the community around him, most notably by his parents, Debbie and Gene Cahoon. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Chris and hold him as an example of what our children may accomplish if they are provided with nurturing surroundings. Furthermore, I salute him personally for his heroism and kindness.

HONORING DWAIN HAMMONS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dwain Hammons who retires this week from Hammons Products Company in Stockton, Missouri, as the chief executive officer. Hammons Products Company known at one time as "Missouri Dandy," has for the past 53 years bought, shelled, and sold Eastern Black Walnuts. In just a little over half a century, Hammons Products Company has become the world's foremost supplier of the Eastern Black Walnut. This becomes even more significant when you realize they created a market that at the time was virtually non-existent in the sale of Eastern Black Walnuts.

Hammons Products Company began as a dream of Dwain's father, Ralph, in 1946, when he was a local grocery store owner in Stockton. Ralph's dream eventually became a reality that Dwain has never lost sight of as he has continued building their business year after year. Dwain has led his family and the business through the changing of the times in the past 50 years. Although Dwain deserves much of the credit for the success of the business, he rarely accepts it. Instead he gives the credit to his father, Ralph, who urged him to always be willing to advance and modernize the company. He also credits the employees, who he will tell you have been a steadfast example of the company's mission statement, "To lead and grow the Black Walnut nut industry, and to excel in providing quality nut products and superior service with strong business integrity enhancing the economic well being and quality of life for owners, employees, customers, suppliers, and our communities." An example he is quick to give is how they helped to invent the companies first walnut shucking machine.

For everyone who knows Dwain and has worked with him, they will quickly tell you he is an example of the mission statement and deserves recognition as he has worked consistently year after year to ensure the Black Walnut will be here for years to come. It is in that effort he has established the Tree Research and Management division to study the Black Walnut tree. Dwain is also a conscious conservationist and has allowed nothing to be wasted when it comes to the walnut itself. After the walnut is shucked, it is then ground into six different sizes where it can be used as a cleansing and polishing agent for jet engines, electronic circuit boards, and jewelry. It is also used in oil well drilling, water filtration systems, soaps, cosmetic and dental cleansers.

Dwain is more than just a successful businessman. He is a servant to his community, State, and Nation in many different roles. In the community of Stockton, he served on the Board of Alderman for six years and as town mayor for four. He is a life member of the Stockton Lions Club and has served as their president. He is also a member at the United Methodist Church in Stockton where he has been a member of the choir for over 40 years and served as its director for over 20. He has been active in the Boy Scouts at the local, district, and council levels. In the State of Missouri, he has served on the Governor's Task Force on Rural Economic Development, a member for six years on the Missouri State Chamber of Commerce, Executive Board and on the Advisory Board of the University of Missouri School of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife. These are just to name a few. At the national level he was awarded the Meritorious Service Award from the National Walnut Council and is also a lifetime member. The National Association of Marketing Officials awarded him the National Marketing Award. In 1992 he was awarded by President George Bush and this body the Teddy Roosevelt Conservationist Award. And, while it is most important to recognize his achievement in those areas, I would be remiss not to note how he has always been devoted to his family first. I think it shows as his son Brian is ready to take the reins of the business and lead it into the twenty-first century.

Although Dwain will be missed on a daily basis at Hammons Products Company, we all know he will not be far away because his love for the Eastern Black Walnut will keep him close by. So remember, the next time you enjoy the rich, distinctive flavor of the Eastern Black Walnut that you did not have to crack yourself, to be sure to thank Dwain and know he will be thanking you. Thank you, Dwain, for your commitment to your family, the business, and being so willing to give of your time and talents to your community, State, and Nation. Your involvement and self-sacrifice is an example we can all follow and live our lives by.

A TRIBUTE TO JARED MARKGRAF; FOR HIS PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Jared

Markgraf, Boy Scout, from San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of his advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts are awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout based on their faith and obedience to the Scout Oath. The Scout Oath requires members to live with honor, loyalty, courage, cheerfulness, and an obligation to service.

In addition the rank of Eagle Scout is only bestowed once a Boy Scout satisfies duties including, the completion of 21 merit badges, performing a service project of significant value to the community, and additional requirements listed in the Scout Handbook.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Eagle Scout Jared Markgraf will guide and inspire his peers, toward the beliefs of the Scout Oath. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Jared on this respected accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE BAUER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate Steve Bauer on his acceptance into the prestigious Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora. Steve is a 15 year-old freshman at Southwestern High School. When the principal of Southwestern, Lynne Chism, was asked about his acceptance she replied, "It's a great honor for Steve and our school." When Steve was asked about his acceptance he said, "It's a great opportunity in my life to study at one of the best math and science schools in the country."

Steve's parents, Pamela and David Bauer of Brighton are proud of their son but they are going to miss him. "We'll be baking a lot of cookies to send to Steve at school," said his grandmother Betty Wright. Bauer wishes to maybe study engineering or medicine, but whatever he chooses to do in life I'm sure he will be successful.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY AT THE EL TORO AND TUSTIN AIR STATIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the July 2, 1999 closing of United States Marine Corps Air Stations Tustin and El Toro, and to pay respect to the many thousands of dedicated Marines and Orange County civilians who served their country at these two military facilities over the past 50 years.

Commissioned in 1942 as a U.S. Naval Lighter-Than-Air Base, MCAS Tustin was originally home to a fleet of helium-filled airships which conducted anti-submarine patrols off the Southern California coast. The site was decommissioned in 1949 but reactivated in May 1951 with the onset of the Korean War.

The facility subsequently became a helicopter base, and in 1970 the facility was annexed by the City of Tustin and renamed Marine Corps Air Station Tustin. From World War II through the Persian Gulf War, the Marines at MCAS Tustin have played a critical role in protecting our national security. From 1962 to 1971, elements of Tustin's Marine Aircraft Group 16 were deployed to South Vietnam and Thailand, becoming the largest Aircraft Group in the history of the Corps. In August 1990, MAG-16 began deploying what eventually became five squadrons to Saudi Arabia for participation in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In all, MAG-16 flew over 11,000 sorties and 24,000 flight hours in support of the liberation of Kuwait.

Commissioned in 1943, MCAS El Toro was originally established as a training field for Marine pilots as part of the escalating war in the Pacific theater of World War II. In 1955, the Third Marine Aircraft Wing was moved to El Toro from Florida. Between 1968 and 1974, MCAS El Toro served as President Nixon's arrival and departure point to his "Western White House" in San Clemente. In 1975, the air station made history as part of "Operation New Arrival" by serving as the initial point of arrival into the U.S. for 50,000 refugees fleeing the repressive communist government of Vietnam. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the Third Marine Air Wing flew more than 18,000 sorties and delivered approximately 30 million pounds of ordnance against enemy targets. El Toro Marines also participated in Operation Sea Angel in Bangladesh in 1991, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia in 1992, and Operation Nobel Response in Kenya in 1998.

It has been an honor to represent these fine Marine bases during my career in Congress. The Marines stationed at El Toro and Tustin have been the best of neighbors. Their service to the Orange County community has been an invaluable asset to a wide variety of groups including needy children and the homeless. Their annual air show raised funds for many outstanding local charities and provided a wonderful outreach to millions of people from throughout Southern California.

Most of all, the Marines' service to our country from these bases has helped to ensure freedom and liberty for all Americans.

I know my colleagues will join with me in marking the close of an era, and in honoring the outstanding men and women of El Toro and Tustin for their half-century of dedication and commitment to safeguarding our nation's security.

A TRIBUTE TO HUGH ROBINSON

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an aviation pioneer and the community in Newton County, Missouri where he grew up. From Neosho, Missouri, Hugh Robinson entered the annals of aviation history, especially as it relates to the military. He is credited with making the third successful aircraft flight in 1907.

From there he created a series of first flights that may be unequalled in history. He was the

first pilot to execute a right turn. Prior to this, it was believed that a plane would be torn apart by the force of such a maneuver. In 1911 he made the first authorized air mail flight; the first medical flight by carrying a doctor to a sick patient by airplane; the first to fly a hydroplane and the first pilot of a monoplane. He also helped design and build the first commercial airplane. Robinson trained the first military test pilots for the United States, as well.

Perhaps he is best known as the inventor of a simple device that still makes even the modern wing of the U.S. Navy possible—the tailhook.

Hugh Robinson wasn't satisfied though. He created his own career in the circus. He developed the "Globe of Death" where he rode, first a bicycle, and later a motorcycle at 60 miles per hour inside a giant globe. His death-defying act, developed in Neosho, made him the highest paid circus act in America.

This 4th of July weekend was chosen as the appropriate time to pay tribute to Robinson and his contributions to aviation and his service to country. The Neosho Municipal Airport will be named in honor of Robinson in ceremonies this weekend.

The Neosho Hugh Robinson Airport as it will be known has just finished several important improvements. The approaches to the runway had obstacles that left several hundred feet of the 5,000 foot surface unusable. Those obstacles have been removed, with crucial aid from federal sources, and now the airport can accommodate larger aircraft for a local firm that overhauls jet engines.

The road leading to the airport was relocated as part of the improvements. It will be named for Neosho Police Officer Terry Johnson who was killed earlier this year in a flying accident at the airport.

The celebration in Neosho will be marked by hot air balloons, a Civil War living history display, an air show, ground displays of the Confederate Air Force and military aircraft, and, naturally, fireworks. Music, crafts and lots of friendly Ozarks people should make this a wonderful weekend to visit Neosho and to honor the work of Hugh Robinson. (1882–1963)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 259, H. Con. Res. 94, I erroneously voted "aye." My vote should have been in the negative.

COMMEMORATION OF THE VICTORY OF FREEDOM IN THE COLD WAR ACT

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor of the House today to introduce the Commemoration of the Victory of Freedom in the

Cold War Act, a bill to recognize the accomplishments of the American people in winning the Cold War.

On September 26th, 1996, this House debated and approved without dissent, House Concurrent Resolution 181, which I offered to begin the process of national recognition for the tens of millions of citizen-patriots, who had participated in our 46 year Cold War struggle.

In 1997, both Houses of Congress amended the President's proposed fiscal year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act to authorize a Cold War Certificate of Recognition to honor the more than 22 million veterans of the Cold War. In that act, we established the date for the start of the Cold War as September 2d 1945, to coincide with the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan, thus ending World War II and our alliance with the Soviet Union. In that act, we also established the date for the end of the Cold War as December 26th, 1991, to coincide with the end of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the birth of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The people of the United States of America should recognize and celebrate the grandeur of this historic accomplishment:

Four hundred million people in Europe and Asia were liberated from Soviet communism; Germany was united peacefully; the states of western Europe buried their historic animosities and started creating a peaceful European Union; struggles, which boiled over into conflicts all around the world, from Korea and Vietnam to Afghanistan and El Salvador, and threatened the nuclear annihilation of the entire human race ended without that horrible outcome; the potential for a truly global economy where the potential of the entire human race is available for the first time in the history of mankind was opened; and the American people and economy, long tied to the costs and commitments of defending the Free World, were unleashed resulting in the second longest period of uninterrupted growth in U.S. history.

During the Cold War, there were moments of great fear. We all remember the sealing of the western sector of Berlin and the threat of starving an entire city; the launching of Sputnik with the realization that the Soviet Union was a determined, resourceful foe; and the Cuban Missile Crisis which led us to the brink of war.

There were also moments of great stress and despair in our own nation. We went to battle for our beliefs. In the war in Korea, we lost more than 50,000 Americans. The war in Vietnam tested America's resolve. Our nation was torn apart so badly that some scars have yet to heal.

But there were also moments of pure magnificence. The Berlin Airlift and Inchon were great military successes and added to the honors of Armed Forces. Americans landing on the moon, the first safe return of the Space Shuttle, and the creation of the Internet are symbolic of an explosion in the development of useful technology.

Now, it is time to demonstrate our great respect for men and women who actually carried the burden of the policy of the United States during this Cold War. This bill, which would authorize the creation of a Department of Defense Cold War Victory Medal and create a Commission to plan for our celebration, is designed to do just that.